



CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL

GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS 2017-2018

**Chair of Governors
Mr. Idris Williams**

**Vice Chair
Mrs. Helen Williams**

**Headteacher
Mr. Graham Hughes**

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the Governing Body of Castell Alun High School, I am pleased to present to you the Governors' Annual Report for the academic year 2017-2018, another highly successful year for the school.

Our role as Governors is to foster the work of the school in all its aspects, to ensure that the widest possible range of opportunities is available to our children, and that the highest possible standards of attainment and behaviour are maintained.

As you will see from the following pages, academic standards are of a very high order, and are amongst the very best in North Wales. In the Upper Sixth, students achieved well at Advanced Level, and we wish them well in their future careers; successful completion of the Welsh Baccalaureate was a deciding factor for the majority of students in acceptance by universities in both Wales and England. We congratulate all students and staff on these excellent results.

Over the last few months you will no doubt have read on the school website, Headteachers' Blog and in the local press that students have achieved considerable success, particularly in sports and music, and have made their mark in the community through their fund-raising for charity.

The School Council continues to play an important role in shaping the future of the school, and we were pleased to welcome Darcy De Winter and Thomas Roberts as Associate Student Governors.

The school's financial position continues to cause concern against a back-drop of increasing costs and real terms budget cuts each year. We recognise that this is both a local and a national issue. You can be assured that Governors will continue to do all they can to support the Headteacher in ensuring that our students receive the best possible learning environment and experiences.

You may have seen in the press recently that the local authority have committed to spending £5.1m on extending and upgrading our facilities over the next two years. We look forward to working with them to make sure the upgrades to our school meet the needs of the current and future generations of local children.

The Welsh Government has abolished the requirement for schools to hold an annual Parents' Meeting, putting in its place a right to petition a meeting should a generic issue arise. Individual queries continue to be addressed via the Headteacher and the ever-popular Parents' Evenings. These evenings present the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and are held, as always, for each year group at an appropriate time in the school year.

I am sure you will agree that Castell Alun is a caring school in which our children have the opportunity to grow and develop their talents in whatever fields these may lie. I extend grateful thanks to the Headteacher, the whole staff and to my fellow Governors, for their continuing commitment to excellence, and to you as parents and carers, upon whose support the future of the school depends.

Mr. Idris Williams
Chair of Governors

CASTELL ALUN HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNORS 2017-2018

	Expiry date
Chair: Mr. Idris Williams	October 2020
Vice-Chair: Mrs. Helen Williams	June 2022
Headteacher: Mr. Graham Hughes	
LA Representatives:	
Cllr. D. Healey	June 2019
Cllr. R. Hughes	September 2018
Mrs. J. Dennis	May 2021
Mr. G. Griffiths	June 2019
Mrs. E. Swain	June 2021
Parent Representatives:	
Mr. M. Davies	December 2021
Mrs. C. Fletcher	June 2022
Mrs. H. Williams	June 2022
Mrs. P. Williams	March 2021
Mrs. S. Bakewell	March 2021
Mrs. B. Jones	June 2022
Teacher Representatives:	
Mr. K. Davies	March 2020
Mr. D. Condren	September 2018
Representative of Non teaching Staff:	
Mrs. J. Southwell	March 2022
Community:	
Mr. I. Williams	October 2020
Mr. G. Kelly	March 2022
Rev. A. Pawley	December 2019
Mrs. B. Ellis	December 2020
Mr. S. Vaughan	December 2020
Associate Pupil Governors: for one academic year only	
Darcy De Winter	
Thomas Roberts	

Clerk : Mrs. S. White

The Chair and Clerk of the Governors can be contacted via the school office.

The next election of Parent Governors will be held in March 2021.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

School policies and procedures are reviewed regularly. Copies of all policies including the school's Complaints Policy are available from the school office as well as the school website.

LANGUAGE POLICY

Teaching and learning are through the medium of English at Castell Alun High School. Students study English and Welsh at all key stages, French in Year 7 and more able linguists have opportunities to learn both French and German as modern foreign languages from the last half term of Year 8 onwards.

ESTYN INSPECTION

The school was inspected in September 2017. A copy of the report is available from the school office, from the school's website or the Estyn website. The school achieved two 'excellent' and three 'good' grades for the five Estyn quality indicators.

THE CURRICULUM

Our fundamental aim is to provide students with an enjoyable, relevant and stimulating curriculum.

We support all our students to:

- enjoy learning
- acquire knowledge and skills that are relevant to the world of work
- develop lively and enquiring minds
- be confident to express their opinions
- recognise their own strengths and meet their personal targets
- achieve their true potential
- develop concern for their environment
- respect the religious values, morals and cultures of others.

We are an inclusive school providing equal opportunities for all students.

Year 7 to Year 9: All Key Stage 3 students study :

English, Mathematics, Science, French, Welsh, History, Geography, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Information and Communication Technology, Drama (Year 9), Personal and Social Education. Literacy and Numeracy are both embedded in the English, Mathematics and wider curriculum.

Nurture Group: Students who need some extra support when transferring to Year 7 can benefit from our Nurture Group provision. This is now in its third year and has proved to be extremely valuable both educationally and socially for a number of students.

Year 10 and 11: Key Stage 4 students study GCSE or equivalent level courses.

Core curriculum at Key Stage 4

It is compulsory for students to study the following:

English Language, Mathematics, Numeracy, Chemistry, Physics and Biology or Double Science, Religious Education, Welsh and the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification.

Additional Curriculum

Students can select 3 from over 25 option subjects.

Year 12 and 13: All Sixth Form students study AS/A level or equivalent courses from well over 20 subject options in addition to completing the Welsh Baccalaureate qualification.

STUDENT NUMBERS

At the start of the academic year there were 1354 students on roll. 212 students joined the school in Year 7.

ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS

The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) and the Learning Support Team provide excellent support for students with Additional Learning Needs. There are many extension activities for the More Able and Talented. Staff monitor progress, support learning and keep in contact with parents and carers, in accordance with the Welsh Assembly Government Code of Conduct.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Castell Alun is a Community Focused School. There is a programme of community learning opportunities, activities and events. The Police Liaison Officer, PC Peter Jones, works closely with the school to deliver personal and social education sessions.

The successful collaboration between the school and Hope Community Library continues with the Library celebrating its first year anniversary in May. The Library is run by a group of volunteers, 'Friends of Hope Community Library', and is the home of the local heritage archive. A number of community activities took place

during the year including a Roald Dahl celebration, World Book Day story telling, Easter craft sessions, Halloween events and Christmas film screening. The library also hosts bilingual rhyme time sessions once a month and holds a summer reading scheme during the holidays.

The Governors of Castell Alun have thanked the volunteers for their dedication and hard work and also recognise the school for taking up the management and upkeep of the building.

CHANGES IN THE SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

The School Prospectus is revised every September. It includes essential information about the running of the school, including the correct school uniform, the Complaints Procedure and health and safety advice. Copies are available to download from the school's website. Hard copies are available from the school office.

VISITS TO THE SCHOOL

Parents and Carers are welcome to make an appointment to visit the school at any time. We welcome questions and the opportunity to share information about our work with students.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

We aim to provide the best possible facilities for learning. The school site is extensive, well maintained and safe for students. The whole site, including toilet facilities, is inspected regularly by the school Site Manager.

TOILET FACILITIES

We manage well with the limited toilet facilities given the number of students at the school. They are cleaned before, during and after the school day. The Local Authority is aware that additional toilet facilities are required and will include these in the future building programme at the school.

ACTION TO PROMOTE HEALTHY EATING

The School Cook plans menus in accordance with Flintshire County Council catering services dietary policies. All food is compliant with current healthy eating standards.

There are no vending machines selling sweets, chocolate or crisps on the school site. Two vending machines sell drinks that are compliant with current Flintshire County Council policy.

The school will respond to new Flintshire County Council guidance issued for the next academic year.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Once again the majority of our Year 12 students successfully completed their Work Experience during the summer term. The range and standard of the placements that the students sought and secured for themselves was fantastic. The company that we use to carry out both Health and Safety and Vetting procedures in order to enable our students to attend these placements safely, always receive a positive reaction when visiting for Castell Alun students.

The written feedback has been a pleasure to receive. Our students have displayed dedication, maturity and professionalism during their placements.

Once again this year, students have proved to be excellent ambassadors for Castell Alun, with employers citing keen attitudes, enthusiasm and great employability skills.

Castell Alun is pleased to be able to help our students facilitate these opportunities but it would not be possible without the support and willingness of so many local establishments, who give their time and expertise to encourage these young adults on their journey into future employment.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Governors are extremely proud of students' participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. During this academic year 34 students achieved their Bronze Award, 19 their silver award and 42 have either completed or are continuing to work towards their Gold Award. The award is achieved through the demonstration of student excellence in life skills, physical activity and commitment to volunteering, with students taking part in at least two expeditions during the course of each award. Our thanks go to Mr. Andrew Duffy for running this valuable scheme in school, often in partnership with Wildside Expeditions.

MUSIC PROVISION

At Castell Alun we are extremely fortunate to have many talented students. This is particularly evident in our music department with over 100 students receiving instrumental or vocal lessons in school provided by the Flintshire Music Service. Extra-curricular ensembles that are delivered by both our music staff and the Music Service include vocal group, jazz band, wind band, percussion ensemble, flute group, saxophone ensemble and guitar ensemble. These ensembles then feed into County groups where Castell Alun are very well represented, as well as 4 Counties, North Wales and National ensembles. The work that goes on during these lessons, as well as the weekly ensemble rehearsals, is then showcased during our two main concerts during the year (Christmas and Spring) as well as many other opportunities for performance during the year, including musical productions, weekly assemblies, open evenings, presentation and leaving ceremonies and visits into the community.

STUDENTS' DESTINATIONS: September 2018

Students aged 15 at the start of the school year beginning in September 2017

DESTINATION	Percentage
Return to school	57%
Further Education	32%
Training – work based	5%
Employment with training	3%
Employment with no training	0
Unemployed	1
Unknown	2%

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017-2018

A copy of the schools balance sheet will be made available upon request.

BUDGET HEADING	ACTUAL EXPENDITURE 2017-2018 £
EXPENDITURE	
Staffing (All employees)	5,015,284
Premises	217,987
Supplies & Services	322,412
Other (eg Prudential borrowing/Music Rem)	120,111
SLA's	61,247
Total Expenditure	5,737,041
Income (inc Grants received at year end)	295,167
Budget (inc balance brought forward)	5,501,412
Net Expenditure	5,441,874
Balance c/f	59,538

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Attendance – 94.6%

Unauthorised absence – 0.1%

Governors are concerned about the number of holidays that are taken during term time. Parents are encouraged to consider carefully the educational impact before removing their child from school. Any request for a holiday for longer than three school days will require parents and students to work with senior staff to put in place a plan to catch up on missed work.

TERM DATES 2018-2019

The term dates are as follows:

Autumn Term 2018		
Training Day	Monday	3rd September 2018
Training Day	Tuesday	4th September 2018
School Opens	Wednesday	5 th September 2018
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	26 th October 2018
School Opens	Monday	5 th November 2018
School Closes	Friday	21 st December 2018
Spring Term 2019		
School Opens	Monday	7 th January 2019
School Closes (Half Term)	Friday	22 nd February 2019
School Opens	Monday	4 th March 2019
School Closes (Easter)	Friday	12 th April 2019
Summer Term 2019		
School Opens	Monday	29 th April 2019
School Closed (May Day)	Monday	6 th May 2019
School Closes (Half-term)	Friday	24 th May 2019
School Opens	Monday	3 rd June 2019
School Closes	Wednesday	17 th July 2019
Training Day	Thursday	18th July 2019
Training Day	Friday	19th July 2019
Training Day	Monday	22nd July 2019

SESSION TIMES

The school day	
8.50am	Registration/Pastoral
9.15-10.15am	Period 1
10.15-10.30am	Break
10.30-11.30am	Period 2
11.30-12.30pm	Period 3
12.30-1.15pm	Lunch
1.15-2.15pm	Period 4
2.15-3.15pm	Period 5
3.15pm	End of School Day

GOOD CAUSES SUPPORTED BY STUDENTS

Royal British Legion
Children in Need
Breast Cancer Care
Save the Children
North Wales Cancer Research
Hope House
Children with Cancer UK
Marie Curie Cancer Care
Sport Relief
Cancer Research UK
Samaritan's Purse (Shoe boxes)

TRIPS & EXCURSIONS 2017-2018

Liverpool Art Galleries – Years 10 and 12
Chill Factor – Year 7 and Austria Skiers
Clwyd Theatr Cymru – English and Drama GCSE, Year 7, Dance Students
Airbus – Technology Years 10 and 11
Nant BH – Year 7
Glan Llyn – Years 9 and 13
Llangollen International Eisteddfod – Year 7
Chester Zoo – Year 12 Geography, Psychology and Biology, End of Year 7 trip
North Wales Coast – Years 10 and 12 Geography
Overseas Study Visits, Berlin/Krakow – Year 12 History/R.E. Students
Overseas Ski Trip, Austria – Year 10
Overseas Study Visit, Iceland (1st overseas trip for Geography)
Overseas Study Visit, France – French Students - Year 10
Overseas Sports Tour, Barcelona – Year 8 P.E. Students
Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions - Bronze, Silver & Gold – Years 10 to 13
Coed Llandegla – various years Mountain biking/ OAA activities
Airbus/JCB/Toyota – EESW students, STEM
Tesco Broughton, Nurture Group
Techniquist – Nurture group students
Delamere Forest – OAA activities
Army Work Experience
Cardiff – Geography, Health & Social Care and MAT Students, Basketball & Rugby Finals
Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay – P.E students
Lowry Theatre – English
Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, Bangor Universities – STEM, Geography, English
Oxbridge and Liverpool Universities – SEREN and UCAS Fair
Storyhouse Theatre – Drama
Myddleton Hall Theatre – English
Manley Mere – OAA Trips
Wimbledon – P.E. Students
Rhyl Pavilion – English
Imperial War Museum – MAT Students
Llyndir Hall, Rossett – Year 11 Prom
Beaufort Park Hotel – 6th Form Leaving Party
Meol Fammau – Year 8/9 Charity Walk
Rhyl Sea Aquarium – Nurture Students
Tesco, Broughton